Thurs. 1909

Telegraph and Station } Seend.

CLEEVE HOUSE,
MELKSHAM,
WILTS.

Sep 7.

My Billy.

We shall meet at Salisbury then, on Friday. Our train gets there I think at 4-30. & we shall I suppose go straight to the inn. where we shall find you I hope unless you get that letter. You feel in doubt as to my mood - do you! How unnecessary - I am always only too ready to be calm & friendly. It is only your uncontrolled passion which

disturbs the atmosphere so. I hope the Goodmans will get rooms at Studland - Really Swanage would be too far off for comfort. If you don't hear at once from Mrs Gibbons I should write again asking for an immediate reply. Perhaps you had better address to Studland, Wareham, which I believe is the post town. It may make a little difference. I forget if I told you this. I rather hope Mrs Gibbons herself may have other rooms.

Julian's nurse comes back tomorrow. Thank Goodness. I have

had rather a dose of it this time with a fortnight. However as this time here couldn't be of much value anyhow. I expect in future we shall merely come here in order to give the nurse her holiday I mean if possible to give up the Castle just entirely. It seems to me absurd to have it empty then.

Are you interested in the Pole? The news this morning of Peary of course excited me rather! But I saw a photograph of Dr Cook at the Ravenhills the other day in which he looked quite the most deceitful character you can imagine, on account of which I have rather lost faith in him. I suppose you are writing well as you say so!

Did I tell you, to counteract my criticisms that your article in O.W. Holmes met with

great praise from M: Declaim?
I didn't ~~see~~ see him so I
can't tell you exactly what he
said, but no doubt you will get
a full account from Clive.
I think it was to the effect that
you had said just the right
thing & that that was what
criticism ought to be. I may
say that his remarks were
made before he knew who
had written it.

Tell Adrian he had much
better come to Salisbury. There
is a great deal I should like
to tell him about your
travels. Yrs VB.

T. PARSON 3-2-73

Cleeve House.

Sep. 8.

My Billy.

I meant to write to you this afternoon, but had no time, as it was my last & most strenuous day with Julian. Dorothy had gone & his nurse hadn't yet come. However now I am free again & I am left to wonder how anyone can ever be a nurse. Of course it wouldn't be so bad if one really were one for one would do nothing else. & also this is not a place where one can leave a child alone - The house is full of shaky little tables with small sharp objects on them, so that one has to

If I have given up Dr Cook & am married by Wiens about Xmas & thought he'd cut in first. I expect this will turn out to be lost. Do you really love me?

Yrs
Gwen

Cleeve House.

Sep. 8.

My Billy.

I meant to write to you this afternoon. but had no time. as it was my last & most strenuous day with Julian. Dorothy had gone & his nurse headed-off-come. However now I am free again & I am left to wonder how anyone can ever be a nurse. Of course it wouldn't be so bad if one really were one for one would do nothing else. & also this is not a place where one can leave a child alone - the house is full of shaky little tables with small sharp objects on them. & that one has to

If I have given up Dr Cook & am convinced by Vivian that I am thought I'd cut in first. I expect this records with him not to be lost. As you really love me

N.S.

Yrs

VB.

he always on the look out.
L in the garden there is a
pond as well as three small
precipices in the shape of banks
down which a child of Julian's
age would tumble easily & might
hurt himself quite badly - so
that one could never sit down
& leave him alone as one does
in the square. But had to be
always pursuing him, with the
consequence that he gets into
rather bad ways of wanting constant
attendance. I hope the teach at
Studland will be a good send.
What a nuisance these fellows
are. I know many measures
are necessary with them & I
should send a reply paid
telegram if you haven't heard
when you get this. If you do
go to Swanage, I believe the

end of the town is very much nearer Shirdland than the other - so I take care to go to that, but I think Jones room must be presentable at Shirdland.

This is the last letter I shall write to you before we meet at Salisbury - & almost the last I shall write at all I suppose. I have been ordering a heap & all sorts of delicacies from the Stores in anticipation of pic-nics. &c. Mixed biscuits among other things you will be glad to hear. I feel very much like a child going to be given a treat. The family atmosphere has thickened here & we are beginning to long for escape. When Mr Ball is away, Clive & I have more effect: things are not so bad - & when Louisa is away also there is much less of the overwhelming & incessant

rattle of student commonplace -
but when Wh are here nothing
can be done. Really as I walked
in to dinner tonight & listened
to grace being said & thought of
the hours or more before me I
almost turned tail. & was only
made philosophical by seeing
that we were to eat grouse & thinking
that I should at any rate
get some animal pleasure from
that. The only thing is to
divert ones attention from all that
is being said & as long as one
is not suddenly appealed to it
is all right. I let out three
grumblings once as I reflect that
this is my last letter & you must
have more of them. Clive &
disgraced ancestors brought by him
to treat in a jocose way the
excessive solicitude about Shotts'
mates had been dosed. Any
mockery is an insult - In fact we
made L- & D. so cross that they
went to sit in the library while we
came to the morning room into Mrs
Bell - which was a good result. Isn't
a household!

Cleeve House

1909

Tues.

46, Gordon Square,
Bloomsbury.

Sep 14.

My Baby

I half hoped for a letter from you this afternoon but none has come. Nor have we yet heard from Lytton which is tiresome. but I don't think now that he can mean to come anyhow just yet. I suppose that if you take your cottage Adrian would rather go to you. Otherwise I hope he will come to us on Friday, unless I write by tomorrow

mornings' post. He would get the letter tomorrow evening if I did. But it is very unlikely.

We had a very dull evening yesterday, in spite of the Raven Hills, who could not do more than make matters vulgar. My only consolation lay in very good champagne on which I felt strongly tempted to make myself drunk. It would have made things livelier at any rate. But tomorrow they go & the day

after we shall go to [illegible] I
shall once more feel myself
in water where little sharks
play about & nip me tail
& me need not think
of the big cod fish again for
another year - You see
what I mean no doubt.
I carried you yesterday,
going back free & done
in a nice empty house
with beautiful things - while
we were to meet the por-
tentous coachman at Tow-
bridge. the first sign of
what was to come however
I went for a ride only the

contrast between this & your
beauty, wit & intellect is great.
I shall not write again.
Your note appears on Thursday
morning & we shall join
your train at Poole.

Yours
RB

[Seen]. (15th Sep: 1909)

46, Gordon Square,
Bloomsbury.

Wednesday

My Billy.

I return you letter to Olivia which I think will do very well indeed. This will get to you too late to affect your plans. but I hope you will settle to come tomorrow, for you can come to our spare room & have more time to look about for a room for Friday night than

if you only come on Friday.
But if you do only come
on Friday. Shall I try &
get you a room? Let me
know if you want me
to do anything & write
to you to catch the country
post on Thursday - then I
should hear on Friday
morning & could go & see
your cottage & do anything
you liked. I selfishly hope
you will take it. If you can

seem much more expensive than rooms would be & it will be much nicer if you are in Shidland.

If you don't come till Friday could you bring Sartor then instead? Also, if you have time, could you go to Sweden Sq. & look in the study for the copy of the Athenaeum containing Chas article on the Carlyles. He has been sent another book about Carlyle's love affairs to review & would like to see what he said before

The old Athenaeums are on a shelf in the book case on the left of the fire place - all together. Is your affection for him great enough to make you do such a tiresome job? But I hope you will come tomorrow in which case you must have time.

The Balls have gone & we are alone - I expect Adrian anyhow on Friday tell him -

Yr VB

If you come tomorrow could Adrian fetch the Athenaeums before Friday?

Studland.

1909

46, Gordon Square,
Bloomsbury.

Oct 4.

My Billy.

Yours letter & cheque have come - Yours news about Saxon's widow is too incredible & we have decided that the Bedouin was certainly the creation of your imagination & that possibly some of the rest was too. Anyhow you are going to be sharply cross-examined on the subject on Thursday evening, when we certainly intend to

come & dine with you -
I enclose 2 bills which have
come for you - Would you
ask Adrian to get us
tickets for the Promenade
concert on Friday next?
I have had a card from
Vernon saying that she
will be delighted to sit
by me. I have also had
a letter from Sylvia who is
just going to Florence with
Mr. Pearman - He thinks me
is rather melancholy to be
going to Florence for the first

time with an old man of
80 who, as she says, can't
do much in the way of
sight seeing now.
We spent yesterday blessing
you for this house, for it
was a humid day & we
spent the whole of it sitting
in it. Norton, or Harry
as I am gradually making
up my mind that I
shall have to call him,
is hard at work on his
dissertation. So we did not
have much conversation
until the evening. when
we sat up late the small

Jones discussing Julian's
education & all that follows
from such a subject.
Today we have been in the
Swamps & Bog &c. &c.
The mystery of your pate
is solved. It came. but
it was not pate. only
a hybrid compound, indes-
tinguishable from ordinary
potted meat. Mr Bunt, when
I asked him what the inside
of a pot which he sent en-
tailed real pate was like
made the pathetic remark
that though he had sold many
hundreds of such pots he
had never once seen the
inside of one. Yours

T. PARSONS 3-2-73